Benet

Florida
Players
Present

JOHN BROWN'S BODY

by

Stephen Vincent Benet

November 30
December 1, 2, 3, 4, 1966
NORMAN HALL AUDITORIUM

Stephen Vincent Benet's

JOHN BROWN'S BODY

Adapted for the stage and directed by
Gil Lazier***
Setting and lighting designed by
Donald P. Creason***
Technical direction by
Albert F. C. Wehlburg***
Costumes designed by
Mary Davis***
Dance sequences choreographed by
Sherry Eve Penn*

THE PLAYERS

(listed in order of appearance)

The Narrators

Jerry Rhodes**
James Richardson*
Carol Nurenberg*

The Heroes and Heroines

Robert Hefley* *as Jack Ellyat*
James Mooty* *as Clay Wingate*
Sherry Eve Penn* *as Melora Vilas*
Patty Fielder *as Sally Dupré*

The Choral Ensemble

Carol Cohen
Terry Daugherty*
David Edwards
Toni Giliberti
Susan Lane
Alyce Schweyer*
Carl Strano*
Linda Tarler
Lon Winston
Clifford A. Wood*

The Ballet Ensemble

Sherry Atherton
Debby Penick
Al Pinan
Claude Pinkston
Barbara Thomas
James Thompson
Shirley Williams
David Wright

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Student Government, WUFT, The Florida Alligator, WRUF, WGGG, WUWU, WDVH, The Gainesville Sun, The Stag 'n Drag Shop

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager . . . . . *James Norman**

Assistant to the Director . . . . . *Diana Shek*

Assistant to the Choreographer . . . . . *Shirley Williams*

Chorus Captain . . . . . *Carl Strano**

House Manager . . . . . *Leslie Marks**

Construction . . . . . *Joe Filippo**

Kathy Bliss, Anne Brown, Bill Dreisbach,
Robert Hefley, Fay Humphrey*, Ron Jones,*
Tom Kleiman, Arlene Kleinbing, Nancy Klores,
Madlyn Levine, Leslie E. Marks, Bill Moore,*
Pris Ogle, Sara Rosenberg, David Rotford,
Steve Salamon, Anita Sands, Joye Schwartz,*
Melody D. Seymour, Mike Smith, Kathie Taccolini*,*
Diane Walser, Sherry Warren, Yvonne Weinstein,
Frank Werscbing, Naomi Wilker*, Susan Wilkie,*
Esta Wilson, Fred Winter*

Lighting . . . . . *James Frazier**

Kathy Bliss, Barbara Bush, Donna Collins,
Bill Dreisbach, Ron Fick, Bonnie Jones, Bill Moore,
David Rotford, Mike Smith, Diane Walser, Fred Winter*

Costumes . . . . . *Sandi Evans**

*Una Yakatan, Beverly Thomas**

Sound . . . . . *Tom Kleiman*

Makeup . . . . . *Anita Sands*

Publicity . . . . . *Bob Boyd*

Bill Swisher, Diane Walser

STUDENT THEATRE STAFF

Don Demree
Sandi Evans
Joe Filippo
James Frazier
Fay Humphrey
Joan Kuykendall
Leslie Marks
Mike Smith
Frank Werscbing

THEATRE STAFF

Donald A. Borchardt
Donald Creason
Mary Davis
Gil Lazier

Albert F. C. Wehlburg

L. L. Zimmerman, Director of Theatre
Paul Moore, Head, Department of Speech

*Member of Florida Players
**Key Member of Florida Players
***Member of National Collegiate Players

PROGRAM NOTE

John Brown's Body has been called the most significant work of American epic poetry ever created. Since its publication in 1927, critics and historians alike have marveled at Stephen Vincent Benet's achievement. Scholars of United States history *en masse* commend the accuracy of the poem's factual documentation, and literary analysts consider the epic an example of true poetic genius. Through this synthesis of fact and artistic form, Benet has given us a timeless, living, and humane account of our country at the most agonizing moment in its history.

The Florida Players' production of *John Brown's Body* does not represent the initial attempt to offer the poem within the theatrical medium, but it does mark a new stage adaptation. The now famous First Drama Quartet, under the direction of Charles Laughton, presented a readers theatre version in 1953, using only three narrators and a chorus. This production scheme was repeated in New York in 1959 by members of the Yale School of Drama. Both presentations received critical acclaim. The adaptation you are witnessing is original in that it is a full theatrical piece, utilizing not only three narrators and a chorus, but also four actors and a dance ensemble. Thus we are attempting to amplify the brilliance of Benet's poetry through acting, narration, choral speaking, music, and ballet.

It is virtually impossible, within the confines of a few hours, to present all of *John Brown's Body*, a work of nearly fifteen thousand lines. Consequently, any stage adaption cannot include all of the scope and beauty of the original. But we do hope to convey at least a part, albeit a small part, of Stephen Vincent Benet's vast tragic vision of the Civil War. Benet saw a new and more fruitful America grow out of the War Between The States. We hope that his vision will never be proven wrong.

Gil Lazier

The next major Florida Players' production will be Robert Bolt's *Man For All Seasons*. For tryout information call Extension 2671.

Fire regulations forbid smoking in the theatre auditorium. Please comply with this safety precaution.

For your convenience we suggest that you please be prompt so that our production may start on time. Doors close at curtain time.